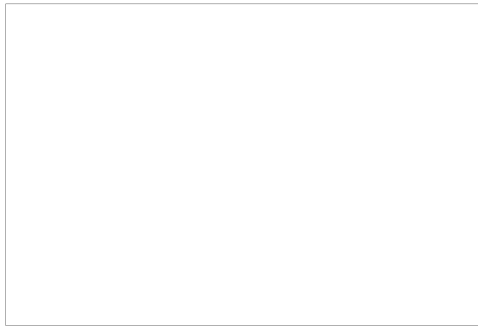


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Questions and Answers Concerning
Grain Assessments and Land Reform
In Newly Liberated Areas
Perspective, Shanghai, 18 Mar 1950



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SECURITY INFORMATION

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CONCERNING GRAIN ASSESSMENTS AND LAND REFORM IN
NEWLY LIBERATED AREAS

Q. What are the merits of land reform? What ~~are~~ ^{would be} the conditions of rural areas after land reform?

A. Land and houses have been equitably distributed to the satisfaction of the people in the rural areas. Living conditions are much better and the people have been able to acquire sufficient provisions this year. Farm production is being increased.

Q. When will land reform in the newly liberated areas be put into effect?

A. According to the decisions adopted by the Government Administration Council, land reform in the newly liberated areas will be carried out after the autumn harvest of 1950. In Kwangsi, Yunnan, Kweichow, Szechwan, Sikang and Suiyuan, land reform will be carried out after the fall harvest of 1951. In areas occupied by the minority nationalities in Sinkiang and other areas, land reform is to be carried out after the fall harvest of 1951.

Q. What is the reason for not implementing land reform immediately?

A. Preparations have not been fully completed and the masses, for the most part, are not yet prepared for carrying out land reform.

Q. What preparations are necessary?

Directives issued by the Government Administration Council as well as all government regulations must be strictly observed. Cadres must be given land reform training and peasants' associations must be organized.

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Delegates' conferences of both the peasants and the people must be held and the various rural administrations must be reorganized.

Q. What steps must be taken prior to land reform?

A. Rent reduction must be carried out and the selling, renting, pawning, and giving away of land by the land owners must be prevented. After rent reduction is carried out, peasants must be required to pay rent to the land owners. Land must not be permitted to lay idle.

Q. Why is it necessary to reduce rent?

A. The main aim of rent reduction movement is to lighten the burden of the peasants and to eliminate the prevailing feudal system in China.

Q. What points must be noted in the rent reduction movement?

A. See that unification of the middle-class farmers are carried out; closely observe the schemes of the rich farmers; and see that effective production system is implemented.

Q. What is the Central People's Government policy on public grain?

A. In the newly liberated areas, levy on grain must not be more than 17 percent of the total agricultural production. Local governments are forbidden from increasing grain tax of more than 15 percent of the total grain tax previously assessed. Grain tax must not be more than 60 percent of the sum total of agricultural production. Only in extraordinary situation, the levy could be more than 80 percent.

Q. What would be the effect if the directive of the Central People's Government was not carried out?

This would mean that the rural policy of the Central People's government would not be effectively carried out and that land reform program would be

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greatly retarded.

Q. What treatment is to be given obstructors of peasant movement?

A. Obstructors of peasant will be brought before the people's court and tried in accordance with the law. The masses are forbidden from taking the matter into their own hands.

Q. Why must disorder be avoided?

A. Disorder, wanton killing, etc., are methods of a feudalistic society and are against the basic principles of the Central People's Government. The aim is to wipe out the landlord class and not the land owner as an individual.

Q. What accounts for riot tendency?

A. The main reason is because many cadres have not indoctrinated themselves thoroughly with the basic tenets of the Party and the Central People's Government; they frequently take the matter into their own hands and disregarding the directives issued, they encourage riots against the landlord class. Some cadres have been guilty of assuming a bureaucratic attitude in their dealings with the people.

Q. Is it necessary to use brute force?

A. No. A rational method must be used in dealing with the lawless and evil landlords. This method will help to unify the masses and isolate the enemy. The people's court, an instrument of the people's democratic dictatorship, must be relied on to suppress counterrevolutionaries.

Q. How can tendency toward brute force be checked?

A. Cadres and the masses must be taught that use of brute force is

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a practice against the principle of the Central People's government. It is also necessary to impress the masses that they are the backbone of our strength and must unite to prevent the power from falling into the hands of the evil elements.

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